

BOARD OF ETHICS
Open Session Minutes
May 14, 2008 - 3:00 p.m.
740 North Sedgwick, Suite 500

Board Members Present

Miguel A. Ruiz, Chair
Alison C. Chisolm
Thomas McCarthy
Michael F. Quirk
Mary Beth S. Robinson
John L. Wilhelm, M.D.

Staff Present

Steven I. Berlin, Acting Executive Director
Richard J. Superfine, Legal Counsel
Courtney L.D. Kimble, Attorney/Investigator
Edward Primer, Program Director
Pully Casillas, Staff Assistant

I. Approval of Minutes

The Board VOTED 4-0 (Alison C. Chisolm and Michael F. Quirk absent) to approve the Open Session minutes of the April 23, 2008 meeting, as amended.

II. Chair's Report

None.

III. Acting Executive Director's Report

(During the report Michael F. Quirk joined the meeting)

A. Staff Vacancy

I am pleased to introduce Courtney L.D. Kimble, our new Investigator/Attorney, who began here on May 1. Courtney is a graduate of Loyola University, where she majored in Philosophy, and a 1998 graduate of Northwestern University Law School (thereby making NULS the source of legal education for 2 of our 3 attorneys!).

B. Education-Classes

Since the last Board meeting, staff has conducted 1 regularly scheduled class for persons required to attend ethics training. On May 8, 29 persons attended. There are currently 34 scheduled for class on June 5, and 17 for June 19.

On May 12, staff made a 45-minute presentation to members of the Affirmative Action Advisory Board, at the request of its Chair, the City's Chief Procurement Officer.

On June 6 and 20, staff will make ethics presentations to employees of prime and sub-contractors of the O'Hare Modernization Project, at the request of OMP's Executive Director. We anticipate about 125 attendees at each session.

C. Mandatory Annual Ethics Education

As of today at 2:55 p.m, approximately 20,500 City employees have completed their 2008 on-line training. According to departmental training plans, the City is right on course as to where it should be in mid-May. This is approximately 55% of the City's full-time workforce.

Due to time constraints, staff has delayed the "deployment" of the 2008 Aldermanic on-line program until early June.

D. Statements of Financial Interests

As of today at 2:30 p.m., staff has processed approximately 12,440 FIS forms from employees, plus about another 425 from appointed officials. Together this is about 92% of the total number of individuals required to file by May 1. All those filing after May 1 are required by law to pay a \$20 filing fee. To date, the Board has collected \$780 in late filing fees for the 2008 filing year.

Tomorrow, May 15, as required by law, the office will send, by certified and first class mail, notices to those 615 employees and officials required to file by May 31. I am happy to report that this number represents a 50% decrease from the number of certified mailings we were required to send in 2007 and 2006.

E. Lobbyist Registration

There are currently **564** lobbyists that have registered with the City for this year. To date, approximately **\$107,800.00** in lobbyist registration fees have been deposited with the Department of Revenue.

F. Illinois Freedom of Information Act

Since the last regularly scheduled Board meeting, the office has received ten requests under the Freedom of Information Act, namely, FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX records of lobbyists', SEVENTY TWO Statements of Financial Interests for employees/appointed officials, and THREE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR Aldermanic recusals, resulting in copying and production of FIFTY ONE records.

G. COGEL Conference

On behalf of the 2008 COGEL Program Committee, I have invited Mayor Daley to give the Welcome Address to all attendees at the first Plenary Session of the 30th Annual COGEL Conference, to be held in Chicago from December 7-10. The session will be Monday morning, December 8.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

H. Semi-Annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes Under the Illinois Open Meetings Act

It was announced that, during the executive session, Board members would conduct the semi-annual review of Board executive session minutes as required by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and would reconvene in open session to confirm the Board's determination in executive session.

The Board VOTED 5-0 (Alison C. Chisolm absent) to adjourn into Executive Session at 3:10 p.m. to review matters concerning the conduct of employees and officials of the City that could result in their discipline or dismissal, to review questions concerning matters of professional ethics and performance, to review matters in which litigation is ongoing, and/or to review matters in which the Board finds that litigation against or affecting the Board is probable or imminent.

VI. New Business (Reconvened)

I. Semi-annual Review of the Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes under the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

At 4:55 p.m. the Board reconvened in open session to confirm its vote in Executive Session on the confidentiality of the Executive Session Minutes. The Board VOTED 5-0 (Michael F. Quirk absent) to confirm that the Executive Session Minutes of the Board between August 1987 and May 2008 remain confidential, on the ground that the need for confidentiality still exists as to those minutes, with the exception of those that have already been made publicly available by vote of the Board.

Mary Beth S. Robinson announced her resignation from her position as a member of the City of Chicago Board of Ethics effective after this meeting. She thanked the Board members and Staff.

The Board VOTED 5-0 (Michael F. Quirk, absent) to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m.